



# STEEL CONTAINER CORPORATION

RECONDITIONED PAILS & DRUMS

MEMBER NATIONAL BARREL & DRUM ASSOCIATION

PHONES: (312) 375-3121 Chicago  
(219) 933-0700 Hammond

3631 STATE LINE  
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46327

000435

Times - Dated Sept. 3, 1978 - hereafter referred to as Article I:

This situation was a one-shot deal. I know of two possible causes:

1. Outside dumping (fly-dumping)  
Many tires and other debris were dumped here.
2. During the winter of '77 and '78 our incinerator which is the heart of our water recycling and pollution-prevention programs began to rupture almost daily, after years of reliable service. This allowed over 1,000 gallons of recycled water to escape and brought production to a halt. Despite huge money expenditures and mounting losses we were unable to solve the problem until March. The incinerator has not ruptured since.

There is no longer any contaminated water going here and vegetation is growing.

Additional vegetation in this area are 76 trees which were planted by the company. The Company also planted a mini-orchard. These trees bear a variety of fruit every year.

Inspection of the photo site noted quart-oil cans where passers-by probably changed auto oil and left the by products of the change, including old oil.

Not far from this site ~~II~~ is the pond which supports aquatic life. Many fishermen are requested to leave this pond for public fishing sites. The pond is surrounded by natural vegetation - this is common poplars are willow-types; cattails have always been found there and are reaped by passers-by for various purposes.... decorative, weaving, etc.



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000177

Times - 10-0-78 - Article #2:

We have been recycling on this spot for 15 years and have circulated about \$10 000,000.00 into the Hammond community.

XXXXXX

Recycling MINIMIZES waste pollutants. Were these thousands upon thousands of barrels destined for dumps, an area equivalent to the size of Chicago would be inundated in about 5 years, if the barrels were stacked 12' high.

The pictures show stacks of drum covers and those which have fallen off trailers. These covers are always retrieved because they have value.

The box in the left of the picture, but not mentioned in the article is for collecting wastes for removal to legal dump sites at Company expense.

Water accumulations in the photos are excessive because the photo was taken after a heavy rainfall; the Company and the State of Indiana have a continuing program to eliminate this and prevention of wastes mixing with rainfall before wastes are put in the waste-box. Our relationship with all other governmental agencies is good, with the exception of Hammond Air Pollution.

No mention is made of the disastrous fires which ravaged the Company during an ambitious expansion program; this left the Company financially strapped. The Company was just beginning to recover when Hammond Air Pollution Control launched its vigorous "attack".

The afterburner is not lying idle in the yard, as stated. Even the most casual observer would have noted that the unit is being worked upon constantly. The afterburner is very close to completion, but apparently because the unit is not completed in entirety, policy of Hammond Air seems to be closing down industry rather than granting the necessary extensions.

If the Company closes this operation, 30 people and their families will be affected.

The Company would prefer to invest in welders and the like to complete the afterburner, rather than have to pay attorney-fees

(cont.)



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000-777

in repetitious court actions which subtract from efforts to improve the environment. Hammond Air Pol. at present is actively preventing improvements to the environment .

While no intentional acts have been done to avoid deadlines, the Company always asked for reasonable interpretation of conditions which might delay meeting them. That the first inspection was conducted for start of construction while the ground was still frozen solid would appear to indicate that there was a misunderstanding of "impediments" to construction, right from the start. The Company's intentions are compliance, as has been stated all along. Some local publicity would appear to imply that this is otherwise which is untrue.

The HAPC was regularly advised of efforts being made. They are also aware of the reasons for financial distress, although HAPC personnel quote examples of "salary-padding" by some firms to show monetary distress. For the Company, the distress is real and the hours worked by the principals would probably fail to meet minimum wage, if totalled.

Calumet has tried to protect the lot of the employees who have cast their lot with the Company. No employee has left for environmental reasons to date. Within a legal framework, Calumet intends to continue its commitment to its employees.

Physicals and attendance records indicate that there appear to be no serious hazards present.



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Times - 10-20-78 - Article #3:

Nothing "oozes" as stated. Rainwater flowed into Illinois and has been stopped via fill and a \$90.00 water pump.

Times - 10-22-78 - Article #4:

Very few drums are dumped at the Gary landfill. Drums ~~XX~~ have value and those that were dumped were empty - just like the empty paint cans discarded after household painting ... only the volume generated from Calumet Containers is insignificant by comparison.

No liquids are dumped at Gary and our sludge is such a small part of the debris that we find that it's shocking that this is illegal after all these years. How do we explain the fact that there is more "hazardous wastes" being dumped from each neighborhood? Does this constitute a hazard?

There cannot be complaints about drums dumped on the ground. Drums are never dumped on the ground and we resent implications that the employees are such animals that they would dump chemicals on the ground that they work on.

The water that had on one occasion flowed into Illinois was stopped long before the date of this article. Why does the article use the present tense?

If HAPC has received complaints about Calumet Containers, why was the Company not notified so that a problem could have been traced and corrected? In 15 years, we are aware of approx. 3 complaints.

Yes, we have not finished the incinerator on time and HAPC has been informed as to the reasons. Does this make the employees and the Company criminals? Is publicly villifying and humiliating us and creating as many problems as is possible to make compliance more difficult actually helping the environment?